



Maine Forest Products Council

The voice of Maine's forest economy

Companies represented on the MFPC Board

American Forest Mgmt.
Baskahegan Co.
BBC Lands LLC
Bradbury Forest Mgmt.
Columbia Forest Prod.
Cross Insurance
Family Forestry
Farm Credit East
Fontaine Inc.
H.C. Haynes
Huber Resources
Innovative Natural
Resource Solutions
J.D. Irving
Katahdin Forest Mgmt.
Key Bank
LandVest Inc.
Limington Lumber
Louisiana Pacific
Maibec Logging
ND Paper
Nicols Brothers
Pingree Associates
Pixelle Specialty Sol.
Pleasant River Lumber
Prentiss & Carlisle
ReEnergy
Richard Wing & Son
Robbins Lumber
Sappi North America
Southern Maine Forestry
Stead Timberlands
TD Bank
Timber Resource Group
Timberstate G.
Wadsworth Woodlands
Wagner Forest Mgt.
Weyerhaeuser

Testimony in Support of LD 129 Resolve, To Protect Consumers of Public Drinking Water by Establishing Maximum Contaminant Levels for Certain Substances and Contaminants and Opposed to LD 164 An Act To Establish Maximum Contaminant Levels under the State's Drinking Water Rules for Certain Perflouroalkyl and Polyflouroalkyl Substances

February 9, 2021

Patrick Strauch, Executive Director

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Health and Human Services Committee, I am Patrick Strauch, executive director of the Maine Forest Products Council (MFPC).

Since 1961, MFPC has represented the diverse needs of Maine's forest products community. We speak for logging contractors, sawmills, paper mills, biomass energy facilities, pellet manufacturers, furniture manufacturers, and on behalf of more than eight million acres of commercial forestland in Maine.

Maine's forest economy creates more than 33,000 jobs – most in rural communities – through sustainable use of natural resources. Of the \$8.5 million in economic impact to the state, 65 percent is contributed by the pulp and paper sector.

Some of Maine's pulp and paper manufacturers historically used paper coating additives manufactured by chemical suppliers that contained PFAS compounds. This is a common concern by many manufacturing companies throughout the United States, which now have potential liability issues.

We are therefore very attentive to policy decisions that can affect our businesses and Maine's citizens, and we understand the need for science-based assessments of human risk in establishing important health policy.

Dr. Chuck Kraske, environmental manager for Pixelle Specialty Solutions, was appointed by Gov. Janet Mills to serve as a paper and pulp industry representative on the PFAS Task Force.

LD 129 is based on one of the recommendations from that process. The MFPC coordinated industry comments to the task force through our Environmental Affairs Committee.

We support the approach in LD 129, which follows a science-based risk assessment process for determining an appropriate water quality standard for PFAS chemicals of concern, facilitated by the Maine Center for Disease Control (MCDC) in coordination with the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Maine is in the process of building a strong forest bioeconomy with global investors focusing on manufacturing new wood products ([FOR/Maine](#)). Establishing environmental policy using a science-based approach will help Maine build its natural resource economy while protecting public health.

Thank you for your consideration.